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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE SELECTMEN

OF THE

TOWN OF MEREDITH.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1864.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY McFARLAND & JENKS. :

1864.

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ANNALS OF THE

THE TOWN OF NEWBURY

FROM 1600 TO 1800

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NEWBURY
1800

REPORT.

The affairs of the town to-day are in a condition to be looked with some degree of firmness in the face. We think you will be able, by a careful examination of the report, to see how much money has been expended, how much indebtedness has been incurred, and for what the money has been paid, during the financial year which this report covers. It is only stating a fact which the figures will show, that the financial condition of the town a year ago was in a somewhat confused condition. Like the farmer, after a sudden rain in hay time, he knew that no hay had been lost; still only the handiest had been got into the barn, leaving the scatterings to be raked up at some future time, as will be seen by the bills marked paid for the year 1862.

As a general thing the bills presented to the town have been such as an honest man would present to his neighbor; but in a few instances we could not help thinking that the persons presenting demands supposed that the town appropriations were made on the principle that the prudent farmer plants an extra kernel of corn in the hill, or scatters it about the ground for the crows, the better to protect the main crop. But on looking at the appropriations of the town, we could not see that they were made on that principle, therefore declined to act in conformity to their wishes.

An examination of the report will show that the monetary transactions of the town the past year have been of an unusual character, both in kind and amount; the expenditures being over thirty-two thousand dollars. The report shows to whom it has been paid and for what, with some minuteness of detail. Sundries, &c., have had but few claims the past year.

Two causes have operated to make the accounts large. The first was a large number of outstanding demands against the town, mostly of last year, that should have come in to the last year's report, as will be seen by bills paid for 1862. The second and more important cause of the large payment, by the treasurer of the board, was the raising of men required of us by the gov-

ernment for the war. A brief explanation of the action of the selectmen of the town in these important measures may be demanded. The work and time which it became necessary to expend to do promptly and well what was required by the government, and what was expected by the town, would have been a serious tax upon any board of selectmen, had they not been inspired by a local pride, and, as we trust, a patriotic devotion to the cause which demands these labors. Your selectmen, by all the energy they possess, and devotion to the duties assigned them, have endeavored to do all in their power toward placing the town in a position which we trust she will ever hold — that of responding with alacrity to the requirements of our general government, to all demands upon her patriotism.

The quota of three years' volunteers, required to be furnished by our town in the fall of 1862, at the time of raising the 12th N. H. Regiment, was more than twice filled by our patriotic young men, enlisted and led out by influential officers from Meredith, who have borne with honors their full share of the hardships and privations which are incident to a soldier's life. Of this company, which was almost made up of men from Meredith, we should be glad to give a full and detailed report; of the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers; their names, number and rank, together with all others who have gone from our town, enlisted into other regiments; of those who have been wounded, and those who are dead; but for want of time to look up their records we shall have to defer it, with the hope and trust that the next board of selectmen will give a full report of all who have gone from our town to fight the battles of our country, that their names and rank may be placed upon the records of our town, with a full account of them, to be looked at and remembered, with their patriotic acts, when they shall all have passed to their reward, as have the soldiers of the Revolution, and with the same respect.

At the time of the draft our town responded promptly, both by the action of the town and by the men that were drafted. At the call of the President, October 17, 1863, our town was among the first to fill her full quota, the expense of which will be seen in the following report. At the last call for more men, active measures were being taken by your selectmen to be ready to furnish the number belonging to Meredith, when the Proclamation from the Governor came out, saying the quota of New-Hampshire was full.

The services of policemen in our town have been dispensed with the year past, and we are of the opinion that there is a saving of money to the town, and much more peace and quietude.

The present superintendent and wife on the town farm have given entire satisfaction to the overseers of the poor. The inmates have, as we think, had no cause of complaint. There has been but very little sickness at the farm the past year.

The overseers would recommend some repairs, and different arrangements in the buildings at the farm, such as would convene a larger family, and support more of our poor who ask for help at the farm. We think the expense would be less. It will be seen by this report that paupers on the farm have cost about thirty-six dollars each for the past year.

Amount received by selectmen of 1862, after making their report, from the 1st to the 10th of March, 1863, by note, railroad money tax, and otherwise,	\$1,915.10
Amount paid on notes and bills against the town,	1,646.42
Amount of cash and receipts paid to the selectmen of 1863,	268.68
	—————\$1,915.10

Town of Meredith in account with the Selectmen.

By assessment of State tax,	\$1,255.50
“ county tax,	957.67
“ school tax,	1,080.00
“ town tax, and per cent,	3,378.75
“ to pay debts in part against the town,	2,000.00
“ Teachers' Institute,	18.60
“ dog tax,	68.00
By Literary Fund received,	134.46
State aid received,	4,411.96
bounties to volunteers received,	2,600.00
cash of D. S. Bedee, collection 1862,	100.00
cash of D. S. Bedee, collection 1862,	150.00
amount received of T. S. Grant, bills receipted and cash,	155.08
bills of Simeon D. Pease,	113.60
H. H. Eastman, on collection of taxes in 1862,	49.40
H. H. Eastman, bill of abatements,	20.49
cash of B. D. Plaisted, Liquor Agent,	7.49

By cash for use of Town Hall,	6.50
D. S. Bedee, on collection 1861,	85.80
D. S. Bedee, on collection 1862,	90.39
D. S. Bedee, bill of abatements,	49.53

\$16,733.22

Whole amount received by note of town,	\$25,729.44
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For Schools.

To paid Waldo Maloon, Prudential Com. Dist. No. 1,	\$4.55
Herbert Lovejoy, " " 2,	74.34
John Smith, 2d, " " 3,	76.29
Harry Gilman, " " 4,	97.22
Ira Davis, C. H. " " 4,	6.25
John H. Durgain, " " 5,	337.13
Simeon F. Wadleigh, " " 6,	76.49
John Watson, " " 7,	46.69
Moses C. Pease, " " 8,	81.96
Abram S. Dow, " " 9,	45.91
Joseph B. Tilton, " " 10,	49.00
James M. Chase, " " 11,	35.96
Levi S. Swain, " " 12,	62.10
Daniel S. Blaisdell, " " 13,	34.35
J. F. Kelly, " " 14,	22.50
Joseph Flanders, Jr., " " 16,	27.42
Levi W. Sanborn, " " 17,	38.56
Noah L. True, Sanbornton, " " 20,	3.02
James L. Huntress, " " 20,	43.08
Daniel R. Caverly, " " 15,	42.38

\$1,205.00

General Expenditures.

To paid State tax,	\$1,255.50
County tax,	957.67
Peter Severance, for guide-board, 1862,	1.25
John C. Fox, for list of abatements,	62.50
Rev. Charles Burnham, services as school committee for 1862,	26.20
J. B. Batchelder, for printing report for 1862,	25.00
Taylor L. Grant, for 1862,	3.25
Isaiah Winch, for 1862,	2.00
James Dearborn, for guide-boards,	4.00

To paid M. F. Hutchins' bill,	2.00
John C. Gove, for guide-post,	.50
Hanson Bedee, for services and watering-trough,	13.25
Joseph Prescott, for care of town-house March 10, 1863,	3.00
Lane Plummer, services as auditor,	1.50
George M. Burleigh, for books and stationery,	9.88
Salmon H. Sanborn, for bounty on bear,	2.00
James Roberts, for boat knees for Bear Island boat, in 1861,	3.50
Winch & Co., for stationery,	1.78
H. H. Eastman, bill of abatements,	20.49
John Wadleigh, for watering-trough two years,	2.00
S. W. Rollins' bill,	4.00
Joseph Ela, services as Justice of the Peace,	2.09
Stephen J. Pitman, for services as town clerk, &c.,	36.50
John C. Fox, for collection in part,	32.18
E. W. Prescott, for services as policeman in 1862,	5.00
Rev. A. Butler, for services as Superintending School Committee,	30.00
Rev. Charles Burnham, for services as Superin- tending School Committee,	25.00
Daniel S. Bedee, bill for board of selectmen and horse to February 27, 1864,	80.75
Daniel S. Bedee, services as policeman in 1861 and 1862,	10.00
Winch & Co., for wood and lights for selectmen's office to February 27, 1864,	8.00
Eben'r Stevens, expense, stamps, and stationery,	40.76
Eben'r Stevens, for services as selectman,	179.37
Eben'r Stevens, for use of horse and carriages on business for the town one year,	20.63
Dudley F. Morris, for money refunded for poll tax,	3.42
John Smith, 2d, bill for services as selectman,	83.00
John Smith, for use of horse and money paid out,	2.50
Daniel S. Bedee, for money refunded on taxes,	8.66
Daniel S. Bedee, for list of abatements for 1861 and 1862, per receipt,	49.53
Noah L. True, for services as selectman,	111.00
Noah L. True, for supplies for George W. Ham's family,	9.45
Noah L. True, expenses, use of horse, and bill for stamps and stationery,	36.92

To paid John L. Glidden, for plank, in 1862,	2.75
Amos Cram, bill of abatements,	188.71
Eben'r Stevens, services as Treasurer, care of money,	40.00

\$3,407.49

External Poor.

To paid Betsey Hatch, for William Prescott's girl in 1862,	\$25.00
Upper Gilmanton, for Anthony Clark's family,	5.00
Dr. D. S. Prescott, for George Clark,	9.70
Dr. D. S. Prescott, Dorcas Paul,	9.60
Dr. D. S. Prescott, J. Paul,	13.81
Joshua W. Payne, for support of Luther Sanborn's girl, 1862,	15.00
George W. Weeks, for A. Veasey,	5.18
Isaiah Winch, for house-rent for Joshua Jenness, 1862,	36.00
Dr. George Sanborn, for doctoring town poor in 1862,	33.75
B. B. Hoyt, for Isaac Farrar,	17.00
Daniel Hilton, for house-rent for Mrs. J. Tebbetts in 1862,	21.84
James Roberts, for Wm. Prescott's child in 1862,	25.00
Dr. M. E. Jones, for doctoring B. M. Bean,	3.00
Nelson Richardson, for house-rent for Mrs. Marsh,	11.75
Town of Boscawen, for C. E. Moulton in small pox,	60.00
J. M. & C. S. Prescott, for J. B. Swain in 1862,	11.82
J. M. & C. S. Prescott, for house-rent to April 20, 1864,	18.00
J. M. & C. S. Prescott, for shoes,	2.97
Dr. Wm. B. Blake, for B. McCrillis,	.50
John W. Bedee's bill,	8.45
Joseph Ela, for house-rent for B. McCrillis,	3.00
Benjamin P. Woodman, for Charles E. Hall in 1862,	21.25
Dr. George Sanborn, for doctoring poor of the town,	57.00
John W. Bedee, for Mrs. Follins,	5.00

To paid Joseph C. Chapman, of the town of Orange, for care and board of Romanzo Staples, from Feb- ruary 1, to June 14, 1863,	30.47
Dr. Taplin, for doctoring R. Staples,	8.75
Town of Orange, for funeral expenses for R. Staples,	13.00
Jacob Paul, for A. Clark's family,	10.00
H. J. Odell, for Dorcas Paul,	1.33
N. L. True, for A. Clark's family,	1.12
Levi Swain, for widow Benjamin Robinson,	3.00
Ira Sanborn, for hay for widow Benjamin Robin- son,	3.00
Asahel Sanborn, for hay for Mrs. Benjamin Rob- inson,	6.00
Dr. John Dana's bill,	10.00
George E. Chase, for Mrs. Marsh,	2.00
George E. Chase, for Dorcas Paul,	52.78
George E. Chase, for A. Clark's family,	10.21
R. K. Parker, for A. Clark's family,	8.25
Winch & Co., for John B. Swain,	73.98
“ “ for Betsey McCrillis,	5.67
“ “ for Jonathan P. Jenness,	14.04
“ “ for B. Follins,	9.26
“ “ for Mrs. J. Tebbetts,	6.14
“ “ for Charles E. Hall,	4.59
“ “ for William Prescott's girl,	12.68
“ “ for negro family,	8.58
“ “ for Isaac Farrar,	20.95
“ “ for supplies for Mrs. Wm. Prescott,	.88
“ “ for William Prescott's child,	.84
“ “ for B. M. Bean,	3.17
“ “ for Luther Sanborn's child,	1.67
“ “ for George W. Ham's family,	6.75
Dr. Thompson, for Jacob Clark,	3.00
B. D. Plaisted, for supplies for Jonathan P. Jenness,	7.49
Estate of Rhoda Webber, for house-rent for Betsey McCrillis, 1862,	2.25
Nancy Hatch, for support of Wm. Prescott's girl to June, 1864,	25.25
Daniel S. Bedee, for team to move negro family,	2.50
Warren Sanborn, for pair of shoes,	1.58
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	\$790.90

Account of State Aid.

To paid from June 1, 1862, to February	
10, 1863, by selectmen of 1862,	\$2,693.76
Orders given by selectmen of 1862,	
and paid by selectmen of 1863,	622.10
Selectmen of 1863, from February	
10 to May 1, 1863,	1,254.25

Whole amount paid from June 1, 1862, to	
May 1, 1863, the time of selectmen's	
report to State Treasurer,	4,570.11
For which was received of State Treasurer	
in August, 1863,	4,411.96

Being an amount overpaid by selectmen	
in 1862, of	\$158.15

From May 1, 1863, to February	
10, 1864,	\$3,120.51

Add amount paid on orders to R.	
R. Parker,	41.00

\$3,161.51

Amount from June 1, 1862, to	
May 1, 1863, as above stated,	4,570.11

\$7,731.62

Deduct from amount overpaid,	158.15
	<hr/> 7,573.47

Deduct amount received of State	
Treasurer, August, 1863,	4,411.96

\$3,161.51

Leaving the amount due the town from the State	
Treasurer up to February 10, 1864,	\$3,161.51

Roads and Bridges.

To paid Joseph Whitcher, for plank,	\$4.16
Samuel J. Hall, for plank,	.75
John H. Durgain, for building bridge,	22.70
David P. Hatch, work on Pauper Road,	1.00
Joseph S. Hart, breaking road, 1862,	1.55
Moses G. Plummer, for plank,	1.71
William Pike, stone for bridge,	3.75
James Wadleigh, work on Turnpike road, so called,	29.67
Ira E. Gordon, stone and labor building bridge,	13.64

To paid Isaac Webster, breaking Pauper Road, in 1862 and 1863,	3.60
Lucien Dow, for stone bridge,	6.00
John M. Russell, for plank,	5.40
David Plummer, repairing new road,	1.60
Nathan B. Wadleigh, timber and plank for bridges,	61.00
William B. Swain, for plank, 1862,	1.28
Alvah Smith, for plank,	3.25
John Knowlton, breaking Pauper Road,	4.80
Gilman & Huntress, for breaking roads in 1862,	8.78
Richard Neal, for plank,	2.00
John Haines, 1,000 feet plank,	10.00
John W. Chase, stone and plank,	2.32
J. B. Swain, for work on road, 1861,	4.60
Noah Pease, plow broken, 1862,	2.00
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	\$195.56

Notes Paid.

To paid S. W. Rollins,	104.55
S. W. Rollins,	104.55
John Smith, interest,	6.00
Willie H. Leach, note,	106.00
James H. Plaisted, note,	530.00
Jane H. Hawkins, on note of James Hawkins,	34.80
James H. Plaisted,	1,101.69
James H. Plaisted, C. H. Perkins note,	53.88
George W. Sanborn,	230.78
J. S. S. Dolloff,	107.00
J. S. S. Dolloff,	133.41
David R. Lovejoy,	138.04
Abram Bryant, of J. S. S. Dolloff,	100.00
Abram Bryant, J. B. How,	103.00
John F. Webster, on note,	14.00
Eliza W. Batchelder,	209.00
John Smith, Jr.,	303.50
Abel B. Eastman,	163.75
Belknap County Bank,	1,000.00
S. W. Rollins' note,	302.65
George W. Sanborn's note,	211.23
George W. Sanborn's note,	507.66
Nathaniel Batchelder, interest,	27.00
Gordon Bunker, interest,	42.00

To paid John C. Fox,	204.00
David Corliss, interest,	23.74
Clarissa Corliss, interest,	4.61
S. S. Plaisted, on Wm. H. Hawkins' note,	6.00
Samuel Bean, interest,	24.00
George H. Clark's note,	214.40
Benjamin G. Young,	204.60
Cynthia Chase,	634.80
Dudley F. Norris, interest,	6.00
John F. Webster, interest,	5.00
James L. Huntress' note,	1,012.50
H. H. Eastman's note,	138.35
Eben'r Stevens' note,	761.25
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	\$8,873.74

Drafted Men.

To paid Hezekiah Bickford,	300
John M. Dow,	300
Leander Bryant,	300
Thomas S. Dolloff,	300
Benjamin Perkins,	300
George W. Sanborn,	300
George D. Pease,	300
John L. Russell,	300
Benjamin M. Smith,	300
John Smith, Jr.,	300
John Webster,	300
George S. Roberts,	300
John F. Daniels,	300
Alonzo Bickford,	300
William Cate,	300
Ezra D. Neal,	300
Hosea S. Swain,	300
Norman G. Nelson,	300
Stephen B. Maloon,	300
James E. Bickford,	300
Ezra Lovejoy,	300
Charles L. Hoyt,	300
Rufus Clark,	300
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	\$6,900

Paid for Volunteers under the call of the President, Oct. 17, 1863.

Whole amount paid for 26 volunteers, \$14,796.00

Town Farm.

Paid Greenleaf Maloon's bill,	4.42
John W. Bedee, for supplies,	23.04
William T. Elliott, for boots, &c.,	5.53
J. W. Lang, for supplies,	12.87
Warren Sanborn, for services from March 1, 1863, to March 1, 1864,	200.00
Warren Sanborn, for beds and furniture for farm,	14.18
Parker P. Nichols, for four bushels wheat,	8.00
Amos Cram, for work on farm,	3.00
Eben'r Stevens, for window sash, frame, and supplies for farm,	4.00
Winch & Co., supplies for farm,	92.00
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	\$367.04

Recapitulation.

By whole amount of receipts, \$42,462.66

DR. To whole amount paid out, as follows:

For schools,	1,205.00
general expenses,	3,407.49
external poor,	790.90
roads and bridges,	195.56
town farm bills,	367.04
notes against town,	8,873.74
substitutes for drafted men,	6,900.00
volunteers under the call of the President, October 17, 1863,	14,796.00

Whole amount of State aid from

June 1, 1862, to February 10,

1864, \$7,731.62

Deduct amount paid by selectmen

of 1862, to Feb. 10, 1863, 2,693.76

\$5,037.86

Showing the amount paid by the selectmen of 1863, up to February 10, 1864,

41,573.59

\$889.07

Whole amount paid out, which being deducted from the amount they charge themselves with, leaves a balance in the hands of the selectmen of \$889.07, which is made up of cash and due on collector's lists of 1863.

Having examined the foregoing accounts of the selectmen, we find them correctly cast and well vouched.

GEO. G. HOYT, }
J. M. BEDEE, } *Auditors.*

The financial affairs of the Town are as follows:

Liabilities.

Samuel Bean, note,	\$400.00
David Corliss, note,	441.59
Terzah Corliss, note,	367.98
Clarissa Corliss, note,	441.59
W. A. Sanborn, note,	1,157.39
Gideon Piper, note,	115.29
S. D. Pease, note,	108.12
S. D. Pease, note,	100.00
S. D. Pease, note,	101.75
David Plummer, for land damages,	45.00
James H. Plaisted, "	2,000.00
Nathaniel Batchelder, "	450.00
Edwin E. Bedee, "	500.00
James H. Plaisted, "	500.00
Thomas L. Leavitt, "	125.00
Mary Giles, "	50.00
Mary J. Leavitt, "	50.00
J. S. Fullerton, "	90.00
William W. Batchelder, "	100.00
Joseph W. Robinson, "	300.00
Gordon Bunker, "	700.00
Interest of the above notes, estimated at about	300.00
	<hr/> \$8,443.71
Due volunteers for bounties, settled by note in 1862,	\$1,726.00
Interest on said notes,	145.00
	<hr/> \$1,871.00

Amount borrowed on town note, to pay drafted men, State aid, and for volunteers, under the call of the President, October 17, 1863,	\$20,226.94
Interest, estimated at	300.00 ^c
	<hr/> 20,526.64
	<hr/> \$30,841.65

In addition to the above there may be outstanding bills, we think not to exceed \$50,	\$50.00
	<hr/> \$30,891.65

Assets.

Balance in selectmen's hands, of cash and due on collector's lists of 1863,	\$889.07
Due on B. M. Batchelder's tax list of 1860,	8.78
H. H. Eastman, tax list of 1862,	10.18
from State for State aid from May 1, 1863, to February 10, 1864,	3,161.51
from State, for Railroad tax,	191.02
from State, for Railroad tax for 1862, on account of mistake,	44.00
Due from government, for bounties of volunteers,	7,852.00
	<hr/> \$12,156.56

Showing a balance against the town of	\$18,635.09
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EBEN'R STEVENS,	} <i>Selectmen of Meredith.</i>
NOAH L. TRUE,	
JOHN SMITH, 2d,	

Overseer's Report of Affairs at the Alms House, Feb. 24, 1864.

INVOICE OF PROPERTY.

1 pair oxen, \$140 ; 3 cows, \$75 ;	\$215.00
2 heifers, \$40 ; 1 pair steers, \$18 ;	58.00
10 tons of hay, \$180 ; 15 bush. oats, \$10.05 ;	190.05
40 bush. corn, \$56 ; 13 bush. wheat, \$26 ;	82.00

2 shotes,	25.00
75 lbs. fresh pork, 7.50 ; 35 lbs. beef, 2.10 ;	9.60
320 lbs. salt pork, \$32 ; 250 lbs. beef, \$18 ;	50.00
5 bbls. cider, \$12.50 ; 4 galls. apple sauce and tub, \$2 ;	14.50
7 casks, \$7 ; 1 tub, .58 ;	7.58
50 lbs. butter, and 2 pots,	11.15
110 lbs. cheese, 13.75 ; 3½ bush. beans, \$8.75 ; ½ bush. rye, .70 ;	23.20
30 lbs. lard, and tub, \$4.50 ; 24 lbs. tallow, \$4 ;	8.50
40 bush. potatoes, \$16 ; 36 cords wood, \$80 ;	96.00
54 lbs. dried apples, \$4.32 ; soap, &c., in cellar, \$10 ;	14.32
Farming utensils,	50.00
8 beds, and other household furniture,	116.34
4 M. shingles,	8.00
A lot of lumber,	2.00

Whole amount of property at farm,	\$981.24
Amount, as appraised March 1, 1863,	840.60

Balance in favor of farm,	140.64
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Expense at the farm from March 1, 1863, to March 1, 1864,	583.76
Interest on farm one year,	120.00

703.76

Whole amount of receipts at farm from March 1, 1863, to March 1, 1864,	216.72
Add to this balance of invoice,	140.64
Amount of income on farm,	357.36

Deduct this amount from the amount of expense, which is the total expense of paupers at the farm.	346.40
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Average number of paupers at farm, 9½ ; expense of
each, \$36.46.

Names and ages of persons at the Poor Farm.

MALES.

Smith Leavitt,	69
John W. Sanborn,	48
John Batchelder,	55
George Prescott,	12
John Prescott,	2
Orren Clark,	3

FEMALES.

Rhoda Farrar,	65
Dolly Prescott,	21
Mary E. Libby,	14
Mary J. Clark,	11
Eliza E. Clark,	8
Sarah E. Clark,	5

EBEN'R STEVENS,	} Overseers of the Poor.
NOAH L. TRUE,	
JOHN SMITH, 2d,	

LIQUOR REPORT.

*Town of Meredith in account with B. D. Plaisted, Liquor Agent,
from Feb. 22, 1863, to Feb. 22, 1864.*

To liquor and freight,	\$725.00	
Services as agent,	50.00	
United States tax,	13.33	
	<hr/>	\$788.33

CR.

By sales of liquor and bbls.,	630.84	
Liquor on hand,	150.00	
Cash paid Selectmen,	7.49	
	<hr/>	\$788.33

BENAI AH D. PLAISTED, *Town Agent.*

REPORT
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The schools of the town the past year have been as successful as could be expected under the circumstances. There are but four school-houses in town which are at all suitable for the purposes to which they are put. There is a very great lack of apparatus for the explanation and elucidation of the branches taught. The best interests of the schools require that this lack should be supplied at once. There is not attention enough given to writing in our schools generally, and every parent should see to it that his children are supplied with proper writing materials; its neglect is wholly inexcusable. The irregularity in attendance upon school is very great, and ought to be remedied; this, too, for the most part, is the work of parents. Much of the benefit of our schools is lost; especially is this true of the school in the village, because so many of the scholars are absent in "berry time." The committee would suggest the propriety of having a vacation of two or three weeks in "berry time;" this would in part remedy the evil. Prudential committees are not careful enough to notify the superintending committee of the commencement and close of their several schools; and sometimes the notice is so short that it is impracticable to visit the schools. There should be at least three or four days notice.

Teachers fail in not filling out their registers properly, and in not returning them promptly to the superintending committee. Teachers are not entitled to their pay till the register is returned, and properly filled. One of the great wants of the town is a graded school in the village, with a primary, grammar, and high school department. Then the scholars could be so classified that they would learn much faster, and any scholar in town could avail himself or herself of the benefits of the high school, and save much money in the town, which now goes out of town, and secure all the advantages to be found in other places. When will

the town awake to a sense of the importance of this subject? When? We have scholars who are an honor to the town, and the town ought to take a pride in them, and afford them every facility to improve their minds. Our educated sons and daughters are our best jewels. One name, at least, in the town has become historic; that of "Master Leavitt," and that one name is a great honor to the town, and has given it undying renown. Many of the schools have been seriously interrupted by sickness and death. One of our best and most successful teachers was cut off by death in the midst of her usefulness—Miss ABBIE DEARBORN. Other teachers have been sick. In one district as many as four scholars have died during the term of school. More than that number have died in the district included in Meredith Village, but not during the term of school. God in his providence is bidding us do quickly for the young whatever we would do.

DISTRICT NO. 1. *Bear Island*.—In this district there is but one scholar, and there has been no school during the year.

DISTRICT NO. 2. Both the summer and winter term of this school was taught by the same teacher—Miss ELLEN N. KNOWLES, of Moultonborough. The committee were well pleased with the order and decorum of the school, and with the promptness and efficiency of the teacher. The progress of the school was good, and, so far as the committee are advised, the teacher was *eminently* successful, and gave complete satisfaction to her employers. The school-house has been repaired, so that it is much more comfortable than heretofore. There was one serious omission in this school during the winter term: not even one scholar attended to writing. This is more the fault of the parents than of the teacher. The average attendance of scholars was exceedingly good.

DISTRICT NO. 3. The Summer term of this school was taught by Miss LAVINIA S. LEAVITT, of Meredith. She is an experienced teacher, and her works praise her. The scholars made fine progress. The first class in Arithmetic and the first class in Grammar excelled; the first in Reading was also exceedingly good. The system, order and regularity in this school are much to be commended.

The Winter term was taught by Miss HULDAH J. LEAVITT, of Meredith. She is a teacher of experience, and under her supervision the school was making good progress, but because of sickness in her father's family the teacher left before the term closed, and Miss M. J. GILMAN, of that district, kept about two weeks, when it was thought advisable to close the school because so many of the scholars were sick.

DISTRICT No. 4. Both the summer and winter term of this school was taught by Miss M. CLESTIA PLUMMER, of Lake Village. The order in school was good, and the progress during the summer term was commendable. The whole number of scholars during the summer was seventeen; the average attendance fourteen and one fourth. The winter term was not as successful as could be desired. The number of scholars in attendance was thirty-one; average attendance, twenty-four. After teaching seven and one half weeks the school closed abruptly—no notice of the fact being sent to the superintending committee, so they had no opportunity of judging of the progress of the school, or of noting the special defects.

DISTRICT No. 5. This district comprises Meredith Village, and has more than double the number of scholars of any other district in town. During the summer term there were in attendance one hundred and twenty-five scholars; fifty in the advanced department, and seventy-five in the primary department. The advanced department in the summer term was taught by Miss JULIA A. DAVIS, of Lake Village. Her reputation as a teacher needs no commendation. She has taught many terms in this town, and always with success, and to the satisfaction of her employers. This school has been one of the most ungovernable in town, but the committee are most happy to say that it has very much improved under the direction of Miss Davis. The progress made by the school was good, and the order at least on an average with that of other schools. There are some very excellent scholars in this school, especially in reading, arithmetic and algebra.

The summer term in the primary department was taught by Miss A. C. CURRY, of Sanbornton Bridge. She has not had much experience as a teacher, but bids fair to excel. The school was remarkably orderly and quiet, and your committee were well pleased with the appearance of the school, and the progress of the scholars. To manage a school of seventy-five scholars, whose ages would not average more than eight years, requires some tact, and not a little patience.

The winter term in the advanced department was taught by Mr. STILLMAN CLARK, of Bristol. He has had a good deal of experience as a teacher, but with what success he has met heretofore I know not. Under his management the school made good progress, and the order and discipline were better than I have ever seen in it before. Much fault was found with him, and the *prejudice* against him became so strong that it was considered expedient to close the school at the end of ten weeks. Your committee are constrained to feel that the prejudice was altogether unreasonable, and without foundation. The school was visited four or five

times by the committee, and they could discover no defect in his manner of teaching, or any lack of interest. If he erred in the management of the school it was in this, that the discipline was too lax at the commencement, and some thought too rigid at last. It is a difficult matter to please every body, and those who attempt it usually fail. In this case it must be said, as it was said years ago, by the greatest and best Teacher that ever trod the earth, "I have piped unto you, but ye have not danced; I have mourned unto you, but ye have not lamented." The committee were satisfied with the progress, discipline and order of the school.

The winter term of the primary department was taught by Miss HATTIE E. DARLING, of Bristol. She is a very excellent teacher, of large experience, apt to teach, and quite at home in the school-room. The order in the school was all that could be desired, and the improvement of the scholars was very marked. The committee were particularly pleased with the class in Geography. This department for the year past may be pronounced a perfect success. The whole number in this department during the winter has been sixty-three.

There has been a very large amount of sickness in this district during the winter, and it seriously affected the attendance of many scholars, and has made the average attendance unusually small.

There has been a private school in this district, of three terms, taught by Miss C. M. POOLE. This school has taken sixteen from the district school. Of course this has been an advantage to the district. The private school has been well patronized, and has been successful. Thus much needed to be said to show the facts connected with this district; and it should also be stated that two other private schools are now in operation, having between thirty and forty scholars each. The whole number of scholars in this district is one hundred and forty-one.

DISTRICT NO. 6. This district has had but one term of school the past year, because the school-house could not be finished in season. The district, with very commendable zeal and unanimity, have put up a new school-house, at a cost of some \$425, including the grading of the ground about the house. It is now the best school-house in town. We hope other districts will imitate so worthy an example.

This school is now in session, it having yet a number of weeks to keep. The school is taught by Mr. FRED. M. WADLEIGH, of that district. It is his first effort at school teaching, and, so far as the committee can judge, he is acquitting himself with honor. The school is orderly, and the proficiency made is every way satisfactory. The number of scholars is eighteen. The term will be three months or more.

DISTRICT No. 7. This is a union district—partly in Laconia and partly in Meredith. The school was taught by Miss DORA BUGBEE, of Lake Village. She is a competent teacher, but the school was not as successful as could be desired. The old and dilapidated condition of the house is one serious drawback. So much cold comes through the single floor and the crevices, that the house cannot be made comfortable in cold days, and study is almost suspended. Diphtheria and scarlet fever have prevailed in this community, and a number of the scholars have died, and so serious has been the sickness that it completely and utterly prevented success. Those who were able to attend made good progress.

DISTRICT No. 8. The summer term of this school was taught by Miss LAURA FELLOWS, of New-Hampton. The order and discipline were good, and the progress of the scholars commendable. The teacher did not inspire that degree of enthusiasm in her scholars which is desirable and necessary, to secure the best results. The school was small—only twenty scholars—and the average attendance but fourteen. The school-house is one of the best in town. It only needs to be supplied with globes, and charts, and a few simple articles, for the illustration of the studies pursued, to make it all we could reasonably expect.

The winter term was taught by Miss LAVINIA S. LEAVITT, of Meredith. The school was a success. The order, system and regularity were very commendable. Unfortunately the teacher was sick, and obliged to give up the school, and the term was finished under the instruction of Miss AUGUSTA PEASE, of that district. The whole number of scholars in attendance, twenty-eight; average attendance, twenty-two. The term was nine weeks.

DISTRICT No. 20. This district, located in Center-Harbor Village, is made up of parts of three towns, namely—Center-Harbor, Meredith and Moultonborough. The summer term of this school was taught by Miss M. ABBIE DEARBORN, of Meredith. She has experience as a teacher, much tact, and great enthusiasm in teaching; and, as a consequence, was eminently successful. The school was orderly and well managed, and the progress made by the scholars was highly commendable. The summer term was nine weeks. Ten scholars belonged to Meredith.

The winter term, of fourteen weeks, was taught by Miss CARRIE M. DAVIS, of Lowell, Ms. She is an excellent teacher, and acquitted herself with great honor, and to the satisfaction of her employers. The whole number of scholars in attendance during the winter was forty-one; belonging to Meredith, seven.

SCHOOLS REPORTED BY O. BUTLER.

DISTRICT No. 9. Had summer and fall terms; both terms taught by S. ADDIE WOODMAN. Whole number of scholars in attendance, 22 for the summer term, and 24 the autumn term. Good school-house, competent teacher, and quiet, progressive terms. Parents manifested an interest in a full supply of suitable books. Length of terms, six weeks each.

DISTRICT No. 10. Commenced the 1st of October, by Miss M. ABBIE DEARBORN; a very esteemed young lady, and an extra teacher, whose whole soul seemed bound up in the welfare of her scholars. The school was a very pleasant and successful one for seven weeks; when, suddenly, the much lamented teacher was removed by death. Miss Dearborn was highly esteemed both by scholars and parents, and her death cast a lamentable feeling of sadness through the district. The remaining four weeks of the term was taught by Miss ANNIE E. TUTTLE—a competent teacher, and too well known to need remarks. This school, consisting of about 20 different scholars in attendance, is rather backward—there being none advanced beyond the Common School Arithmetic and the rudiments of English Grammar. The district has a good school-house, but no maps, charts, globe, or any other school apparatus.

DISTRICT No. 11. Taught by NELLIE J. BURLEIGH. Two terms: Summer term of eight and winter term of eleven weeks. Not so much energy by teacher or scholars as desirable. Idleness and indifference will never make brilliant scholars. This school has a few first rate scholars, and such make good proficiency; others progress slow.

DISTRICT No. 12. This school was merged into one term, by reason of the old school-house having been consumed by fire, and the new one not being finished in season for a summer term, which made the one term altogether too long; being four months. The latter part of the term, the scholars becoming wearied, lost that interest they had manifested in the first part. The teacher, Miss M. F. PERKINS, has so high a reputation for teaching as to need no eulogy on our part. The school was well drilled; a sufficient supply of books, an excellent school-house, neat and well arranged. School as a whole rather backward.

DISTRICT No. 13. This school taught by Miss JOSEPHINE E. HODGDON. One long term of 15 weeks. Miss Hodgdon ranks among the best teachers. Teaching and discipline thorough. This school is small—there having been but 14 in attendance; yet it is in advance of any school in

this part of the town. I have witnessed no better examination than the one at the close of this school. Evidently all had been at work, and had done their work thoroughly.

DISTRICT No. 14. This school had but one term, of 12 weeks, commenced by Miss M. H. COMBS, who was under the necessity of leaving soon after commencement, by reason of sickness—Miss EMMA G. FOX taking charge. This was her first effort at teaching, and, so far as her success in this school goes, has gained a good reputation as a teacher. The school has been a good one, and closed satisfactorily to the committee. Scholars in attendance, 26.

DISTRICT No. 15. This district had two short terms: summer term of 6 weeks, and fall term of 5 weeks. It would have been better to have had but one term. The summer term was kept by Miss J. E. HODGDON, whose name has been mentioned before. The school was a very interesting one—a few advanced scholars, as well as the scholarship of smaller ones not advanced, rendered the school highly interesting. There were 21 scholars in attendance. The number and character of the visitors at the close showed an increasing interest by the district.

The fall term, taught by Miss LAURA CARTER, was less interesting, from the fact that the number in attendance was less. Some of the best scholars had left, and the term was so short that much advancement could not be looked for.

DISTRICT No. 16. This district is small; there being but 14 in attendance, and a portion of these were from other districts. The district had but one school, of 12 weeks, taught by Miss JANE E. EASTMAN. The school was orderly, and most of the scholars made good progress. There was no lack of interest in the teacher, but a writing school connected, detracted the interest somewhat from other studies; so that while the writing department was eminently successful, yet the examination at the close showed that some other studies had rather been neglected especially the classes in arithmetic.

CHARLES BURNHAM, } Superintending
O. BUTLER, } Committee.

Meredith, Feb. 26, 1864.

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